

amend these applications under 11 AAC 93 as additional data are acquired and analyzed.

Until an instream flow reservation is filed, out-of-stream applications will be adjudicated consistent with AS 46.15 with consideration given to fish and wildlife, recreation, and other stream values. Notice will be given to DFG, DEC, and other interested parties as required by AS 46.15.133.

Water Discharge from Mining Operations.

Zero discharge of pipe effluent will be allowed into the rivers or their tributaries from mining operations.

Wetlands Drainage and Associated Discharge. Wetlands serve to filter nutrients and sediments from upland runoff. They also stabilize water supplies by storing excessive water during flooding and by recharging groundwater during dry periods. In addition, wetlands provide important feeding, rearing, nesting, and breeding grounds for many species, selected recreational uses, and aesthetic values.

The location of wetlands are shown in Appendix H under a separate cover. To protect these values, drainage into wetlands will be authorized only in a manner that:

1. There shall be no impediment to fish passage.

2. Ditches shall not physically connect to any natural bodies of water.

3. Settling ponds and grease separators shall be used to maintain water quality. A strict maintenance schedule shall be undertaken.

4. Disturbed soil areas shall be revegetated by the next growing season. Natural revegetation is acceptable if the site is suitable and will revegetate itself within the next growing season.

5. Discharged waters shall not exceed the state water quality standards.

6. Excess material excavated from the site that is not needed for site development shall be disposed of at an upland site or outside the Recreation Rivers.

7. Side slopes shall not exceed 2:1.

Other Guidelines Affecting Water and Solid Waste. Several other guidelines may affect waste and solid waste. See the following sections of this chapter:

Shoreline Development
Fish and Wildlife Habitat
Commercial
Subsurface Resources
Education

FORESTRY

Goals

Personal Use. DNR will continue to make wood available for personal use within the constraints of budget, access, and habitat and recreation values and the Recreation Rivers Act. Sources of wood for personal use may include permits or sales in remote areas, personal use harvesting areas in road-accessible regions, use of wood residues incident to clearing for other purposes, and harvest of dead and down wood.

Commercial Use. Make wood products available for use incidental to the construction of access or for habitat enhancement.

Forested Land Base. Maintain in public ownership a forested land base that is adequate to meet the needs for personal use harvest, recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, soil, and water.

Fire. Protect from wildfire, human life, valuable public and private forest lands, and significant human improvements.

Management Guidelines

Restrictions in the Act. The Recreation Rivers Act provides specific guidance on timber harvest on state lands. This does not apply to harvest on private or borough lands. AS 41.23.470(b) states that, "The commissioner may conduct only a negotiated timber or material sale under AS 38.05.115 to provide for personal use, including house logs and firewood, or for a use incidental to the construction of access, or for habitat enhancement.

Regulations for Personal Use. Negotiated personal-use sales are subject to the regulations in 11 AAC 71.050. Wood obtained for personal use may not be sold, bartered or used for commercial purposes. In the Recreation Rivers, contracts for personal-use wood will be limited to 3200 linear feet of houselogs, 10 thousand board feet of sawlogs, or 10 cords of fuelwood. For each established personal-use harvesting area, the Division of Forestry sets the number of cords allowed per permit.

Commercial Use. Negotiated timber sales for commercial use are allowed under AS 41.23.470(b) and 11 AAC 71.045 as long as harvest is incidental to the construction of access or for habitat enhancement.

Forest Resources and Practices Act. All timber harvests must comply with the Forest Resources and Practices Act. That act and implementing regulations guide forest management, reforestation, and protection of non-timber forest resources. For more information, see *AS 41.17 and 11 AAC 95*.

Dead and Down Wood. A regulation will be promulgated that limits cutting small amounts of wood for recreation uses to dead-and-down wood. To protect woody debris on the river bottoms which is important for fish habitat, cutting, burning, or removal of dead-and-down wood that is larger than seven inches in diameter and is located below ordinary high water is prohibited except under the provisions for hazard trees. See *Hazard Trees* in this section.

Hazard Trees. Cutting of any size tree that is a hazard to river navigation or public safety may be authorized.

Personal Use in Road Accessible Areas. Personal use harvest of standing timber in road acces-

sible areas may only be allowed on the upland parcel south of Bench Lake on the upper Little Susitna River. The Division of Forestry will revegetate these areas consistent with the Susitna Forestry Guidelines and AS 41.17. Negotiated sales will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Personal Use in Non-road Accessible Areas. Harvest of standing timber for personal use in non-road accessible areas may be allowed by negotiated personal use sales. Harvests will be by group-selection cut and revegetated with woody species including birch, spruce, aspen and willow (see *Regeneration* below). *Group Selection Cut* is a method of cutting where all the trees are harvested within a cutting unit, and where the cutting unit is less than five acres. Harvest of house logs may be harvested by the individual tree selection method.

Regeneration. Personal wood harvest users in non-road accessible areas will be required to revegetate the site after harvest. Site preparation ensures prompt reforestation and benefits habitat and visual quality. Where natural regeneration, artificial seeding, or planting will be used for reforestation, a bed adequate for regeneration will be required after timber harvest. The site preparation method used will depend on site characteristics and vegetation required for reforestation and habitat. Recommended reforestation techniques will be included in the personal-use-sale contract.

Plan Update. When the plan is updated in five years, the planning team and advisory board will consider methods of regenerating forests including whether to recommend to the legislature that the corridors be open to commercial timber harvest. Commercial harvest in the corridors is prohibited now except under the conditions outlined in Section 41.23.470 (b).

Timber Harvest on Borough Lands. For forest management policies on borough lands, contact the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

Commercial Use. Harvest of timber for personal use does not include use of wood for constructing or heating commercial facilities such as lodges. Wood obtained from personal-use permits may be used to heat or construct a lodge owner's personal residence. In no case may the

wood obtained through a personal use permit be bought, sold, or bartered.

Harvest for Habitat Enhancement. Commercial or personal use harvest may be allowed for habitat enhancement. Habitat enhancement may only occur with concurrence from DFG.

Harvest Incidental to the Construction of Access. Harvest incidental to the construction of access may allow adequate clearing to ensure drying of the roadbed. Clearing shall be minimized where roads cross rivers.

Timber Salvage. Timber with commercial or personal-use value should be salvaged from lands that will be cleared for other uses, such as moose habitat enhancement or for transportation or utility corridors. This will be accomplished by:

1. **Review.** The Division of Forestry will review proposals for significant land clearing actions to evaluate whether the timber is worth salvaging and to advise the Director of the Division of Land and Water on appropriate salvage methods.
2. **Scheduling.** Major projects that involve clearing large amounts of forested land, such as for moose habitat enhancement, will be planned in advance to allow a reasonable period to arrange for and conduct salvage of the timber. This advance planning includes sufficient time to conduct inventories and harvest.

Public Notice. Contracts for personal-use wood harvest are exempt from notice requirements for commercial timber sales. Designated personal-use harvest areas that will be open for multiple personal use contracts, or areas where timber cutting is for habitat enhancement, should be included in the five-year schedule of timber sales. They will be subject to the notice requirements for commercial sales consistent with the Susitna Forestry Guidelines.

Public Use Sites. Because of the high public use in certain areas, the intensity of harvest of dead and down wood, and the difficulty of regeneration in areas heavily used by the public, personal use wood contracts will not be authorized in public use sites, except when cutting is necessary to construct authorized improvements. Resource

agencies may remove hazard trees (e.g., standing dead trees near popular campsites).

Buffers. The Forest Resources and Practices Act does not allow commercial cutting on state lands within 30 meters of anadromous and high-value resident fish waters. Harvest between 30 and 90 meters along anadromous and high-value resident fish waters must be consistent with the maintenance of important fish and wildlife habitat.

Iditarod Trail. The buffer width for the Iditarod Race Trail is described under *Upland Access*, *Iditarod Race Trail* in this chapter. The buffer width for the Iditarod National Historic Trail is described under *Heritage Resources*, *Iditarod National Historic Trail* in this chapter. Timber harvest for uses incidental to the construction of access or for habitat enhancement may be permitted in the trail corridor only if such harvests protect or enhance the visual and other characteristics of the trail. Harvesting in the Iditarod National Historic Trail corridor will be designed in consultation with the State Office of History and Archeology. The approximate location of the Iditarod Race Trail and the Iditarod National Historic Trail are shown on subunit maps in Chapter 3.

Unauthorized Access. Timber cutting for personal use or incident to the construction of access shall not be for purposes of creating unauthorized access. This type harvest will be contingent upon receiving required authorization for constructing airstrips, roads, or other types of access improvements.

Fire Management. Fire suppression intensities are determined by the Alaska Interagency Fire Management Plan for the Susitna Basin. Fire management practices, including suppression and prescribed burning, are designed to implement the land management policies laid out in the land use plans for the area. Use and storage of fire retardants is allowed throughout the Recreation Rivers.

Use of motorized equipment including boats, aircraft, and ground vehicles, for fire-suppression purposes is allowed in non-motorized areas. Because it would be difficult to manage fires in the one-mile wide corridors different from fires on adjacent lands, fire suppression levels for the corridors will be consistent with those for adjacent areas.

Seasonal Scheduling. To avoid conflicts with recreational uses of the river, harvest should not occur during the peak fishing season. The peak use periods for each subunit are listed for each subunit in Chapter 3. Seasonal restrictions on harvest does not apply to areas where there is little boating or fishing, such as the upland parcel south of Bench Lake on the upper Little Susitna River. Timber harvesting during the snow-free season will be directed to well-drained sites where summer harvest can aid site preparation and reduce damage to wetlands.



Other Guidelines Affecting Forestry.

Several other guidelines may affect Forestry. See the following sections of this chapter:

- Fish and Wildlife Habitat
- Upland Access
- Heritage Resources

SUBSURFACE RESOURCES

Goals

Mineral and Energy Supplies. Make metallic minerals, oil, and gas available to contribute to the energy and mineral supplies, and to the economy.

Environmental Quality and Recreation Values. When developing subsurface resources, minimize surface disturbance, degradation of water quality, and impairment and conflicts with recreation uses.

Recreation Mining. Make metallic minerals available for recreation mining.

Management Guidelines - Mining

Restrictions in the Act. Under AS 41.23.470(c), "the commissioner may permit mining leasing under AS 38.05.205 on uplands within a recreation river corridor if leasing is allowed under a management plan that has been adopted by the commissioner. The commissioner shall establish appropriate conditions for permits, operating plans, and leases to mitigate the effects of mineral development activities on the environ-

ment and to prevent, to the extent practicable, degradation of the recreation uses of the river." Map 2.3 shows the existing mineral locations and areas that will be effected by mineral orders.

Existing Claims. Existing claims are currently located in the following subunits: Middle Lake Creek (4c), Talachulitna Canyon (5b), Talachulitna Mouth (5a), and Clear Creek (3c).

Mineral Leasehold Location Order. Between RM 42.2 and RM 45.8 along Lake Creek rights to locatable minerals may be acquired only under the leasehold location system, AS 36.05.205, and may not be acquired by locating a mining claim under AS 38.05.145. This will be implemented by both a leasehold location order and a mineral opening order which includes approximately 3,360 acres. There will be a 300-foot staking setback from the ordinary high water mark on Lake, Camp, and Sunflower creeks. In addition, leasehold locations may not be staked in the public use sites at the mouth of Camp and Sunflower creeks (PU 4d.1 and PU 4d.2). Leases will be restricted to 5-year periods. The Recreation Rivers Advisory Board will have the opportunity to review the leases and plans of operation in this area as part of the Alaska Coastal Manage-